

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-11, cancel claims 13-32 without prejudice and add new claims 33-44. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9-11 to better claim the invention. Applicants further note that independent claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 1, while independent claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 4.

The Examiner restricted the claims among four species. Specifically, these species are: species I (specification at page 5, line 13 to page 7, line 21); species II (page 7, line 22 to page 10, line 7); species III (pages 10, line 8 to page 13, line 9) and species IV (page 13, line 10 to page 16, line 1). It is believed that claims 1-6 read on species I, while claims 7-12 read on species II. The remaining original claims (claims 13-32) have been cancelled without prejudice to filing a continuing application.

Applicants hereby elect species I (claims 1-6) for prosecution on the merits. This election is with traverse. As set forth in MPEP 806.04(f), claims restricted to different species must be mutually exclusive. It is believed that claims 1-6 are not mutually exclusive from claims 7-12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 7-12 be considered for prosecution on the merits as well.

New claims 33-44 depend from claims 1, 4 or 10. Applicants respectfully request that these new dependent claims be considered for prosecution on the merits as well.

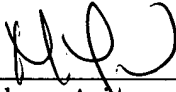
If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032041500.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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